WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A bone plate comprising;

a fixation plate defining at least one through bore through which at least one screw is inserted to fix the plate to a bone, and a lock plate,

wherein the lock plate has a sliding engagement with the fixation plate and is long tudinally adjustable from a first position in which the through bore is accessible to the screw to a second position in which the lock plate retains the screw from backing out of the bone.

- 2. A bone plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein one said lock plate and said fixation plate have a channel which receives the other of said lock plate and said fixation plate to form said sliding engagement.
- 3. A bone plate as set forth in claim 2, wherein said channel includes a dovetail, which receives a flange.
- 4. A bone plate as set forth in claim 3, wherein the lock plate includes a boss, which cooperates with a recess in the fixation plate to secure the lock plate to the fixation plate.

A bone plate as set forth in claim, wherein the lock plate includes a slit to define a leif spring which includes said boss.

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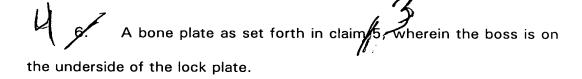
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A bone plate as set forth in claim, wherein the sliding connection is formed by providing opposing shoulders in the top of the fixation plate so as to define a guide way for the lock plate.

8. A bone plate as set forth in claim, wherein the guide way includes opposing undercuts to restrain the locking plate vertically as well as laterally.

A bone plate as set forth in claim , wherein the recess is formed on the top side of the fixation plate.

10. A bone plate as set forth in claim 6, wherein said fixation plate further includes a first recess which receives the boss to hold the lock plate in the first position and a second recess which receives the boss to hold the lock plate in the second position.

A bone plate as set forth in claim 16, wherein said screw has a step cut head.

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12. A bone plate as set forth in claim, wherein said bone plate includes multiple screws and said lock plate can simultaneously lock multiple screws into position.

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